

How Children Learn Through Play



Getting Ready to Learn in
Pre-school

Information for Parents/Carers

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Adapted from Building Together in the Nursery NEELB

All pre-school settings follow 'Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education', CCEA 2006, which highlights how children should learn through play and other appropriate experiences.

"There is no place, at this stage, for the introduction of formal schooling in the sense of an established body of knowledge to be acquired, or a set of skills to be mastered."

***Nursery Education Guidelines "The Curriculum"
NICC 1989***

The pre-school curriculum is set out under the following areas of learning:

- ◆ **The Arts - including Art & Design, Music and Drama**
- ◆ **Language Development**
- ◆ **Early Mathematical Experiences**
- ◆ **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**
- ◆ **Physical Development & Movement**
- ◆ **The World Around Us**

There is a focus on:

- ◆ **Developing independence**
- ◆ **Encouraging creativity**
- ◆ **Challenging and supporting**
- ◆ **Creating life-long learners**

In Pre-school, children develop skills, understanding and attitudes through engaging in a variety of fun and stimulating experiences, including:

Engaging in role play or small world play, dressing up, using props, expressing emotions, opinions, using puppets, masks



Outdoor play experiences, running, balancing, climbing, throwing/catching, riding wheeled vehicles, gardening, art/drama/music/writing activities



Sharing stories, rhymes and songs; browsing in the book area, reading information books and computer programs when playing, using text in role play, e.g. menus, tickets,

Mark-making: developing early writing skills in role play/writing centre.



Play with puzzles, games, construction materials, pegs, beads, etc.



Play with sand, water and other natural materials



Frequent opportunities to draw, paint, print, cut, mould, stick, create 2D/3D models and representations.

As a parent/carer, you have an important role in ensuring that your child gets the most out of play by:

Giving your child space to play - don't fill their days with busy things!

Listening to your child and talking about their interests.



Playing with your child - encourage turn taking and don't always let your child win!

Setting clear boundaries and maintain them consistently ~ Value your child's opinion.

Ensuring your child has regular play time outside - enjoying space, climbing, cycling, throwing, catching, etc.

Creating a balance of play experiences where your child plays alone, with other children and adults.

Encouraging and helping your child to finish things - celebrate achievements.

Seeing the world through your child's eyes!



Play is fun!

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